

CityScene



July 2015
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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Fiscal Year Starts July 1, 2015

The City of Independence's fiscal year begins on July 1 each year. As required by the Charter, a balanced proposed budget is prepared by the City Manager



and submitted to the City Council for approval. At least one public hearing is held and two readings of the ordinance approving the budget are held before it becomes effective.

The City's budget accounts for all revenues received from the sale of utility services, property taxes, sales taxes (including general sales tax, park, street, police, fire and storm water sales taxes), service fees, grants, etc. The **total operating and capital budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, including the utilities, is **\$305,526,474**.

The **General Fund** is the tax and fee supported portion of the City's budget. At **\$74,676,923** it is 27% of the total budget, and pays for most of the City's operations. Areas not financed by the General Fund include the Power and Light Department, the Water Pollution Control Department and the Water Department, which are operated from enterprise funds, and the Tourism program.

Approximately **60% of the General Fund** budget is designated for the Police Department (\$27 million) and Fire Department (\$17 million). The **remaining 40%** is used for operations of other

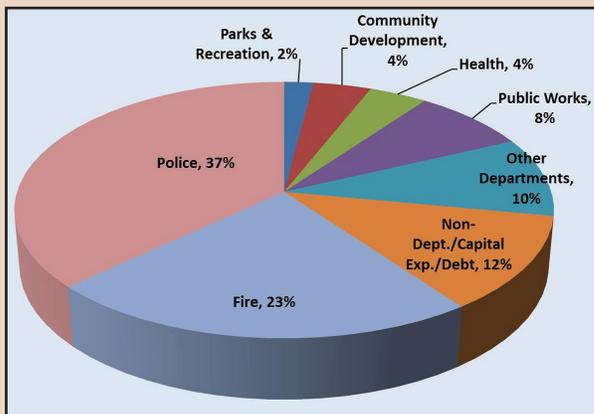
City departments including Public Works (snow removal, mowing public property, facility repairs), Community Development (building inspections, zoning, planning, bus service),

Parks and Recreation (park maintenance, recreation programs, Palmer Senior Center programs), Health (codes enforcement, restaurant inspections, public health programs), Finance, Municipal Court, Technology Services, Administration (Mayor, City Council and City Manager offices) and general expenses.

In addition to providing municipal services, expenses include employee salaries and benefits. As part of the City's adjustment to economic conditions during the last several years, 77 vacant positions – approximately 6% of authorized positions – will remain unfunded.

The General Fund budget for FY2015-16 also includes \$400,000 for capital outlay for equipment used by the Health Department and Public Works, building repairs to City Hall, the Police Building and other municipal buildings, as well as technology updates such as file servers, micro-computers and network systems.

A copy of the entire budget document is available for public viewing at www.independencemo.org.



Annual Block Award Nominations Due

The City of Independence is looking to honor excellent in public service.



Anyone can nominate a City employee, volunteer or elected official who has demonstrated outstanding public service, valor, and job performance with leadership for the annual Susan Paxton Block Distinguished Public Service Award.

Nomination forms are due Friday, August 14 and are available from Jolie Austin, a Junior Service League (JSL) past president; at City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce, 210 W. Truman Road. Forms may also be printed from the City's website at www.independencemo.org. Completed forms should be mailed to Jolie Austin c/o the JSL at 3122 South Chrysler, Independence, MO 64052. Mrs. Block was a member and past president of the JSL.

The late Bill Paxton, father of the late Councilmember Block, established the award to honor her memory and recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence while conducting City business. Mrs. Block represented the third council district from 1992 until her death in 1996.

A selection committee, comprised of local service club presidents, will select the recipient. Kimberly Bailey received the award in 2013 and Ellen Greenberg Jacobs received the award last year.

The award is \$1,000 plus a sterling silver medallion and a sterling silver lapel pin. Proceeds come from the memorial fund established by Paxton.

The recipient will be announced and the award presented at the Monday, September 21 City Council meeting at City Hall, 111 East Maple. September 24 was Councilmember Block's birth date. For more information, call Jolie Austin at (816) 461-0027.

John C. "Jack" Danforth Presented With Truman Award



Mayor Weir presented the 2015 Truman Award to former U.S. Senator John C. "Jack" Danforth on June 18.

On June 18, Mayor Eileen Weir presented the 2015 Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service to John C. "Jack" Danforth, former U.S. Senator from Missouri and Ambassador to the United Nations.

The ceremony was held at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 500 W. U.S. Highway 24, and was followed by a public reception.

The award, established in 1974 by the City of Independence, is presented



Bill Dunn, Sr., accepts the Harry S. Truman Special Recognition Award.

annually to an outstanding American citizen who best typifies and possesses the qualities of dedication, industry, ability, honesty and integrity that distinguished President Harry S. Truman.

"The Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service is the highest

honor bestowed by the City of Independence," said Independence Mayor Eileen Weir. "The Commission is excited to honor Senator Danforth with this prestigious award for his tremendous leadership and character."

Danforth, 78, was a Republican U.S. Senator for three terms, from 1977 to 1995. In 2004 Senator Danforth was appointed by President George W. Bush as the 24th United States Ambassador to the

United Nations.

Senator Danforth is the 41st recipient of this national honor and joins previous Harry S. Truman Public Service Award honorees including former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Bill Clinton; veterans of the Iraq & Afghanistan Wars; historians David McCullough and Michael Beschloss; as well as patriotic women Coretta Scott King, Margaret Truman Daniel, Mother Clara Hale and Mary Jean Eisenhower.

"I'm very honored to be linked to the greatest of all Missourians," Danforth said.

The Harry S. Truman Award Commission also presented the 2015 Harry S. Truman Award Commission Special Recognition Award to Mr. Bill Dunn Sr., Chairman Emeritus of J.E. Dunn Construction, and the Dunn Family in appreciation and acknowledgement of their long-time support of the City.

8th Annual EcoFest Held June 6

On Saturday June 6, 2015, the City of Independence held the 8th Annual EcoFest at Waterfall Park. After a morning of rain, the sun came out and the EcoFest welcomed 320 attendees. There were more than 100 volunteers working a variety of booths and providing educational materials to the visitors.

A t-shirt design contest was held as a prelude to the festival. The winning art work was submitted by 4th grader Mario Calderon from Benton Elementary. The design was used on the 2015 EcoFest t-shirts presented to attendees. Entries from other students were on display throughout the park and the contest winner was recognized during the entertainment session.

This water quality event gave kids and residents the opportunity to learn about aquifers, conservation, watersheds, pollution, recycling, stream bank erosion, native plants, cloth grocery bags vs. plastic, energy saving light bulbs, rain barrels, and rain gardens.

EcoFest is part of our community education and volunteers are now planning next year's event. If you missed it, mark your calendar for the first weekend in June next year. Join us in learning and educating others about the environment.

Historic Preservation Looking For Glimpses of Independence From The Past

Do you have a personal photo collection of historic buildings or neighborhoods you're willing to share?

The City of Independence Historic Preservation Division is expanding their digital collection of historic photos for public use in both research and reference.

Original, printed images can be black and white or color showing buildings, streets, commercial districts or events from any location in Independence starting in the



Pleasant Street, just north of Truman Road, around 1900.

1980s, and going back to the 19th Century.

Your original photos can be scanned and returned to you later, or we can scan them while you wait. Please bring only images from your personal collection, as copyrighted pictures or those taken by professionals cannot be used as part of this project.

Contact Wendy Shay at (816) 325-7419 or by email at wshay@

indepmo.org for more information about the project.

August Activities & Events Abound

Summer is in full swing, and there are lots of things to do before it ends.

Loving your garden? The final Gardening Workshop for the summer will be held at 6 p.m. on **Monday, August 3** at the Independence Health Department, 515 S. Liberty St. The topic will be Fall Gardening, so come out for end-of-season planning. Call the Health Department at (816) 325-7185 for more information.

Free Moonlight Movies on The Square continue at 9 p.m. each Thursday night, with the final movie shown on **August 6**. Closing out this year's schedule will be "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day." Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy an evening under the stars. Inclement weather moves the show to the following Sunday night.

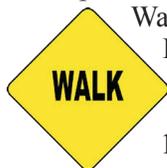


Load up the troops for Family Fun Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, August 8** at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. August's theme is Civil War Days in Independence. Meet Civil War soldiers, watch battle reenactments, and learn about living conditions during the war, the history of the two Battles of Independence, and Order #11.

Kids can make a pretend bullet from a mold, write with a quill pen and see a special marionette performance. Outside events are free, and kids get half price admission to the museum with a paid adult. Sponsored by Friends of the NFTM and the Missouri Humanities Council. Call (816) 325-7575 for more information.

Check out healthy food demonstrations and learn how to make delicious recipes from foods found at the Independence Farmers and Craft Market from 7 a.m. to noon on **Saturday, August 8**. The Market is located at the northwest corner of Walnut and Liberty, and opens at 6 a.m. each Wednesday and Saturday morning through October (except September 2).

Have you tried *The Mile Starts Here*? Join the walkers **Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m.** as they walk through an Independence park. Locations will be August 5 at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive; August 12 at McCoy Park, 8900 N. Bess Truman Parkway; August 19 at the Independence Ath-



letic Complex, 17800 E. Salisbury Road; and August 26 at Country Club Park, 2030 S. Norton Ave. It's a fun, free way to get some exercise and make new friends.

If you haven't had a chance to meet residents of 1849 Independence, come by The Square any **Saturday through October**. You may hear period music being played as you meet People of the Past on The Square, the 1827 Log Courthouse and the National Frontier Trails Museum at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Free wagon rides will travel between The Square and the National Frontier Trails Museum every half hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Don't miss an opportunity to teach the kids about "Everyday Heroes," those special people we come in contact with every day. This puppet show reminds us they are often overlooked, but on closer look they are always there to give us a boost or teach us what we need to know. Visit the Pupp-



etry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road, for performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **Saturday, August 22**. Tickets are just \$5 and include a tour of the museum. Call (816) 833-9777 for details.

On **Saturday, August 29**, it's time for Blues, BBQ & Bucks at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific. Admission is \$25, and each ticket includes appraisal of one item. Appraisals begin at 4 p.m., and a great BBQ dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. Menu includes ribs, pulled pork, smoked turkey, and all the trimmings. From 6 to 10 p.m. listen to live music by Scotty & the Soultones and dance the night away. Purchase tickets at the Carriage House on the Estate, call (816) 461-3491 or visit www.bwestate.org.

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Save The Date! It's Santa-Cali-Gon Days, starting noon Friday, September 4 through 5 p.m. Labor Day, Monday, September 7 on the historic Independence Square. Sponsored by the Independence Chamber of Commerce; call (816) 252-4745 for details.



Call Tourism at (816) 325-7111 for more event information.

Tim Gramling Named Public Works Director

Tim Gramling began work June 1 as the Director of Public Works for the City, succeeding John Powell, who had been Director of Public Works since 2008 and recently retired after 35 years with the City.



"Mr. Gramling brings a strong base of experience in public works within Missouri," said City Manager Robert Heacock. "He has a proven track record for establishing cooperative partnerships and a desire to serve the community."

Gramling comes to Independence from Cape Girardeau, MO, where he had been the Public Works Director since 2004. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla and is a registered Professional Engineer in both Missouri and Illinois.

Rabies/Microchip Clinic August 22

For many, a pet is more than just an animal – it's considered a member of the family. To keep them safe and healthy it is important to stay current with their rabies vaccination, have them spayed or neutered, and get them microchipped.

Independence Animal Services and Spay Neuter Kansas City want to make these important tasks easier. They will be hosting a Rabies/Microchip Clinic at the Fairmount Community Center, 217 S. Cedar, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 22, 2015.

Spay Neuter Kansas City representatives will be setting appointments, offering residents a chance to have their pets spayed or neutered at a reduced cost. Pet food and other pet supplies will be distributed during the event.

Rabies vaccinations and microchipping will also be offered. Rabies vaccinations will be available for \$5 and microchips for \$10. Just remember, when bringing your pets to the event, dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in carriers.

For more information on microchipping, the rabies vaccination, or the event, call Independence Animal Services at (816) 325-7205.

Directory

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office, 111 East Maple Street, Independence, Missouri 64050. For information call 325-7019. Web-site address is www.independencemo.org. Follow us at [Twitter.com/CityofIndepMO](https://twitter.com/CityofIndepMO).



Where To Call

The City of Independence has an automated voice-response telephone system. Call **325-7000** and say the name of the person or the department you wish to contact.



- Adopt-a-Street** 325-7602
- Barking Dogs** 325-7213
- Building Permits** 325-7401
- Business Licenses** 325-7079
- Crime Stoppers Tips** 474-8477
- Drop-Off Trash** 325-7623
- Drugs** 325-6272
- Graffiti** 257-7824
- Municipal Court** 325-7230
- Neighborhood Watch** 325-7643
- Park Vandalism** 325-7208
- Police Non-Emergency** 836-3600
- Fire Non-Emergency** 325-7123
- Potholes** 325-7624
- Report Power Outage** 325-7550
- Street Lights** 325-7535
- Storm Water Pollution** 325-7727
- Utilities**
- Customer Service** 325-7930
- Pay by Phone** 325-SERV
- Payment Assistance** 254-4100
- Weeds, Trash** 325-7193

City Drop-Off Depot

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Second Saturday Of Each Month
March through November!
875 Vista Avenue

From M-291, take Truman Road east approximately one mile, then north on Vista Avenue.

- Trash:** Cars, \$11; Vehicles Larger Than Car, \$16; Trailers 8 Feet or Longer, \$26
- Brush:** Limbs, Firewood, Bushes, Stumps. No Leaves or Grass: \$11/load
- Major Appliances:** \$15 Each
- Batteries & Lawnmowers:** Free
- Tires:** Car, \$2; Mounted Car, \$4; Truck, \$5; Mounted Truck, \$11; Farm/Tractor, \$16

Residential vehicles only, no commercial. No vehicles larger than a pick-up truck. Proof of residency required.



RABIES VACCINATION AND MICROCHIP CLINIC

Hosted By
 Independence Animal Services
 & Spay Neuter Kansas City

Fairmount Community Center
217 S Cedar Ave
August 22, 2015
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



EVENT INCLUDES
\$5 Rabies Vaccinations
\$10 Microchips
Free Pet Food & Supplies
Low Cost Spay/Neuter Scheduling

FREE SCHOOL BACKPACKS TO THE FIRST 150 CHILDREN

Dogs must be on leash
 & cats must be in a carrier.

Regional Animal Shelter

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence

Help them find a forever home.
Adopt a homeless pet.

Noon - 8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Call (816) 621-7722

Always Spay or Neuter!



Become a fan of the City of Independence at www.facebook.com.

To follow the City on Twitter, go to <http://twitter.com/CityOfIndepMO> and click the follow button.



Watch City Meetings On Streaming Video

City Council meetings and study sessions are available as live and archived streaming video on the City's website, www.independencemo.org.

Each live City 7 TV broadcast is available online during the 6 p.m. Monday City Council meetings. An archive of the program is available on the site the next morning for viewing 24 hours a day. Archived videos are available for a few months following their posting. If you would like to purchase a copy of a Council meeting call 325-7762.

Recycling Centers

13600 E. 35th Street
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fridays
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays

875 Vista Avenue
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays

MRC operates the two City recycling centers. Items accepted include paper, cardboard, steel, aluminum, plastic, glass, electronics, appliances, computers, flat screen TVs, lawn and garden equipment and rechargeable batteries. A fee will be charged for non flat-screen TVs: \$20 for TVs 27" and smaller and \$40 for larger TVs. All other items are free of charge, including computer monitors.

CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor**
- Eileen Weir 325-7027
- City Council Office** 325-7022
- www.independencemo.org/citycouncil
- Councilmembers**
- Marcie Gragg District 1
- Curt Dougherty District 2
- Scott Roberson District 3
- Tom Van Camp District 4
- Karen DeLuccie At-Large
- Chris Whiting At-Large
- City Manager**
- Robert Heacock 325-7170



City of Independence

Government Access Television

CITY COUNCIL
 6 p.m. Mondays*
 10 a.m. Tuesdays
 7 p.m. Wednesdays
 2 p.m. Sundays

PLANNING COMMISSION

6 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays*
 10 a.m. Wednesdays
 7 p.m. Thursdays

For more information:
www.City7.TV

*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.